



Weekly Ag Update

USDA/NASS
New Mexico Field Office

nass-nm@nass.usda.gov

1-800-530-8810

Issue 56-17

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE - APRIL 24, 2006

Crop Weather Milk Production Cattle on Feed

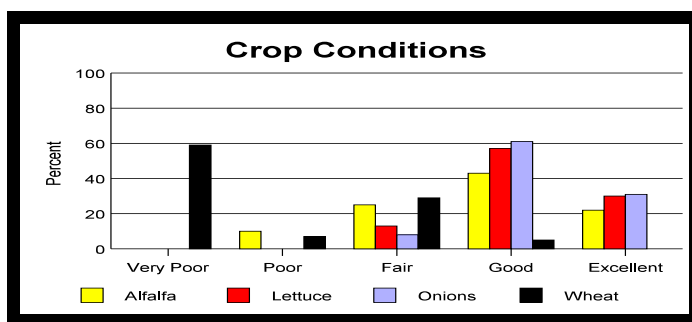
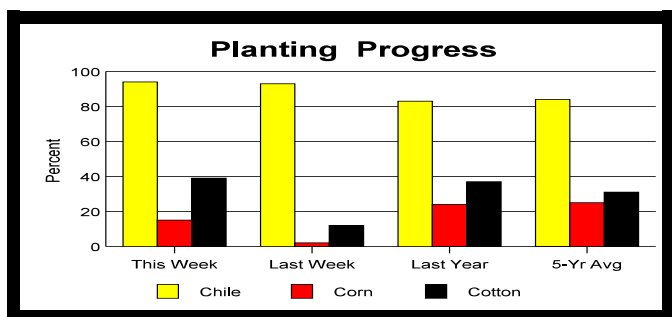
Available on the Internet: www.nass.usda.gov/nm , or by e-mail (1-800-530-8810 for information)

CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 23, 2006

NEW MEXICO: There were 6.7 days suitable for field work. Topsoil moisture was 63% very short, 25% short, and 12% adequate. Wind damage was 33% light, 13% moderate, and 2% severe, damaging crops, buildings, and equipment, and causing some chile farmers to have to re-seed two or three times. Wildfires are still a major concern across the state. Freeze damage was 10% light and was concentrated in the northern counties. Farmers were busy preparing fields, planting crops, and baling alfalfa. Producers were irrigating their crops, but with increasing concerns about their water supply. Alfalfa was reported as 10% poor, 25% fair, 43% good, and 22% excellent. The 1st cutting was 46% harvested. Irrigated winter wheat was reported as 6% poor, 77% good, 16% good, and 1% excellent, with 29% being grazed. Dryland winter wheat was 89% very poor, 6% poor, and 5% fair, with 10% being grazed. Some wheat was being cut for silage. Lettuce, onions, and chile were all in fair to excellent condition. Chile was 94% planted, cotton was 39% planted, and corn was 15% planted. Ranchers were supplementing feed, hauling water, and finishing up branding. Many are looking at culling their herds. Cattle were reported as 3% very poor, 36% poor, 34% fair, and 27% good. Sheep were 12% very poor, 23% poor, 48% fair, and 17% good. Range and pasture conditions were listed as 32% very poor, 37% poor, 25% fair, and 6% good.

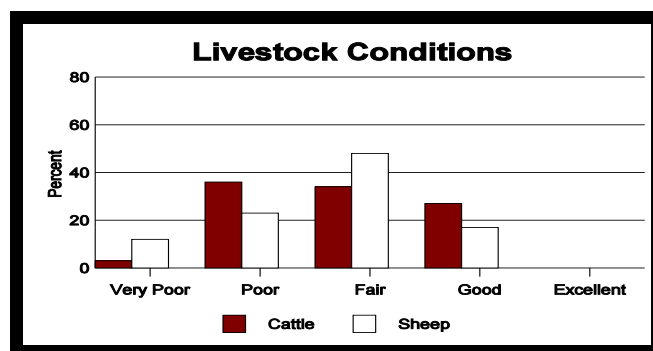
CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
CHILE	Planted	94	93	83	85
CORN	Planted	15	2	24	25
COTTON	Planted	39	12	37	31
WHEAT (ALL)	Grazed	16	17	24	N/A



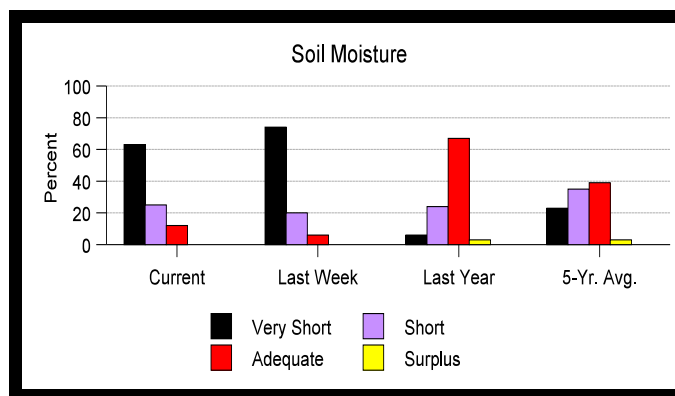
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	---	10	25	43	22
Chile	---	---	13	63	24
Lettuce	---	---	13	57	30
Onions	---	---	8	61	31
Wheat (All)	59	7	29	5	---
Cattle	3	36	34	27	---
Sheep	12	23	48	17	---
Range/Pasture	32	37	25	6	---



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	42	50	8	---
Northeast	86	11	3	---
Southwest	70	20	10	---
Southeast	51	23	26	---
State Current	63	25	12	---
State-Last Week	74	20	6	---
State-Last Year	6	24	67	3
State-5-Yr Avg.	23	35	39	3



WEATHER SUMMARY

The week was relatively warm and dry. A few thunderstorms produced some rainfall at isolated locations over the far eastern counties, along with gusty wind and hail. Tatum (.50") measured the greatest rainfall total. Temperatures for the week averaged about 6 degrees above normal for the state, with afternoon readings hitting 90 degrees at many of the lower elevation stations in the south and east.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS - APRIL 17 - 23, 2006

Station	Temperature			Precipitation				
	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	04/17 04/23	04/01 04/23	Normal Apr	01/01 04/23	Normal Jan-Apr
Farmington	53.9	85	27	0.00	0.58	0.51	1.69	2.48
Gallup	52.7	83	27	0.00	0.24	0.64	1.52	3.23
Capulin	48.5	77	20	0.00	0.05	1.01	0.76	2.86
Chama	46.1	72	15	0.00	0.72	1.27	3.07	6.61
Johnson Ranch	48.9	78	17	0.00	0.11	0.49	0.24	2.47
Las Vegas	53.8	79	23	0.00	0.01	0.83	0.13	2.54
Los Alamos	52.4	74	28	0.00	0.23	1.00	1.10	3.88
Raton	54.9	83	26	0.00	0.00	1.06	0.40	2.90
Red River	42.8	67	14	0.00	1.43	1.68	6.05	5.75
Santa Fe	54.3	81	27	0.00	0.03	0.81	0.47	2.87
Clayton	59.9	88	28	0.01	0.01	0.94	0.46	2.04
Clovis	63.0	87	37	0.22	0.22	0.81	1.70	2.30
Roy	59.8	87	29	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.11	2.14
Tucumcari	66.9	92	36	0.00	0.00	0.87	0.25	2.00
Grants	51.4	80	19	0.00	0.01	0.45	0.79	1.95
Quemado	48.8	77	18	0.00	0.03	0.60	1.14	2.95
Albuquerque	62.0	84	40	0.00	0.00	0.52	0.18	1.96
Carrizozo	60.9	83	33	0.00	0.12	0.36	0.57	2.10
Socorro	60.9	87	34	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.03	1.41
Gran Quivera	57.6	80	31	0.00	0.10	0.64	0.27	2.88
Moriarty	52.6	83	22	0.00	0.16	0.66	0.33	2.10
Ruidoso	53.6	77	28	0.00	0.17	0.63	1.28	4.24
Carlsbad	71.5	95	47	0.14	0.14	0.49	2.00	1.49
Roswell	66.8	93	45	0.00	0.00	0.65	0.05	1.99
Tatum	62.2	90	39	0.50	0.50	0.64	1.91	2.05
Alamogordo	68.9	87	46	0.00	0.07	0.26	0.47	1.93
Animas	66.6	88	43	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.38	1.86
Deming	64.2	90	39	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.58	1.54
Las Cruces	67.3	90	46	0.00	0.04	0.21	0.22	1.26
T or C	66.2	88	45	0.00	0.03	0.22	0.11	1.40

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

MILK PRODUCTION

NEW MEXICO: Milk production in the State during March totaled 663 million pounds, up from the 585 million pounds produced in February and 87 million pounds above production during the same time period of March 2005. Production per cow averaged 1,910 pounds, compared to a rate of 1,790 pounds one year ago. The number of milk cows on farms averaged 347,000 head, a 3,000 head increase from the previous month's average of 344,000, and 25,000 head higher than the previous year's total of 322,000 head. New Mexico continues to hold its 7th ranking in milk production in the nation.

UNITED STATES: Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 14.6 billion pounds, up 5.5 percent from March 2005. February revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 5.9 percent from February 2005. The February revision represented a decrease of 7 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,773 pounds for March, 66 pounds above March 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.22 million head, 124,000 head more than March 2005, and 17,000 head more than February 2006.

Milk Cows and Production: February 2006^{1/} and March 2005-2006

State	Milk Cows ^{2/}			Milk per Cow ^{3/}			Milk Production ^{3/}		
	3/05	2/06	3/06	3/05	2/06	3/06	3/05	2/06	3/06
	-----1,000 Head-----			-----Pounds-----			-----Million Pounds-----		
AZ	164	166	166	2,080	1,930	2,170	341	320	360
CA	1,744	1,782	1,785	1,850	1,705	1,920	3,226	3,038	3,427
CO	102	106	107	1,925	1,795	1,980	196	190	212
FL	139	134	133	1,640	1,420	1,600	228	190	213
ID	441	473	475	1,880	1,670	1,880	829	790	893
IL	105	104	104	1,670	1,540	1,720	175	160	179
IN	156	162	163	1,700	1,575	1,775	265	255	289
IA	191	200	200	1,795	1,630	1,810	343	326	362
KS	110	111	111	1,810	1,650	1,840	199	183	204
KY	107	101	101	1,140	1,080	1,220	122	109	123
MI	309	314	315	1,825	1,725	1,900	564	542	599
MN	455	450	450	1,570	1,470	1,630	714	662	734
MO	119	114	115	1,400	1,320	1,500	167	150	173
NM	322	344	347	1,790	1,700	1,910	576	585	663
NY	648	649	649	1,570	1,485	1,630	1,017	964	1,058
OH	268	273	273	1,520	1,390	1,550	407	379	423
OR	121	121	121	1,640	1,410	1,610	198	171	195
PA	560	555	555	1,600	1,550	1,700	896	860	944
TX	318	325	328	1,795	1,755	2,000	571	570	656
VT	143	143	143	1,595	1,450	1,610	228	207	230
VA	105	103	103	1,495	1,410	1,560	157	145	161
WA	239	236	238	2,020	1,790	1,980	483	422	471
WI	1,233	1,240	1,241	1,560	1,455	1,620	1,923	1,804	2,010
23 STS	8,099	8,206	8,223	1,707	1,587	1,773	13,825	13,022	14,579

1/ Revised. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

CATTLE ON FEED

NEW MEXICO: Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in New Mexico feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 139,000 head on April 1st 2006. This was 4,000 head less than the March inventory. Placements rose to 21,000 head. Marketings continued to increase, up 9,000 head from the previous month to 23,000 head total. Other disappearance totaled 2,000 head.

UNITED STATES: Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.8 million head on April 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above April 1, 2005 and 10 percent above April 1, 2004. This is the highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.84 million, 5 percent above 2005 and 1 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.75 million. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.96 million, down slightly from 2005 and slightly below 2004. Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during March, 32 percent above 2005 and 34 percent above 2004.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots ^{1/}

	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappearance ^{2/}		
	4/1/05	3/1/06	4/1/06	DURING								
				3/05	2/06	3/06	3/05	2/06	3/06	3/05	2/06	3/06
	-----1,000 Head-----											
AZ	326	351	351	27	31	30	24	24	28	1	2	2
CA	500	550	535	65	63	59	70	56	68	10	7	6
CO	1,020	1,090	1,070	165	150	155	175	165	165	10	5	10
ID	240	255	250	44	32	42	53	38	45	1	4	2
IA	455	520	500	55	60	55	64	58	73	1	2	2
KS	2,340	2,610	2,590	445	410	480	460	360	470	15	20	30
NE	2,260	2,450	2,400	300	330	335	350	360	370	10	10	15
NM	113	143	139	13	13	21	23	14	23	2	2	2
OK	325	365	360	61	49	68	73	56	72	3	3	1
SD	205	210	210	31	33	36	34	29	35	2	4	1
TX	2,620	3,010	2,940	480	360	485	540	370	540	10	10	15
WA	159	154	152	22	25	26	47	22	27	1	2	1
Oth Sts	310	315	315	42	42	45	50	60	42	2	2	3
US	10,873	12,023	11,812	1,750	1,598	1,837	1,963	1,612	1,958	68	73	90

^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.